

# District of Columbia State Data Center Quarterly Report

Winter 2006

## Blacks in the Nation's Capital

### Introduction

African American History Month is observed in February each year to recall and celebrate the positive contributions to our nation made by people of African descent. American historian Carter G. Wilson first established Black History Week in February 1926. In 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial, the week was extended to what is now called African American or Black History Month. According to figures published by the US Census Bureau, one can deduce that, over the years, Blacks in general continue to make significant progress in areas like education, income, business ownership, and homeownership, but there are still gaps in many other areas as compared to Whites. This quarterly report gives a short summary of the population numbers for Blacks in the United States and distributions by state in 2004. However, the focus is on presenting the most currently available comprehensive demographic statistics obtained from Census 2000 on Blacks in the 'Nation's Capital'. It presents several demographic, social, and economic characteristics collected from Census 2000, comparing gender differences within this population.

### Summary 2004

The estimated population of Black residents in the United States as of July 1, 2004 was 39.2 million or 13.4 %. The black population is projected to increase to 61.4 million by 2050, thereby constituting 15% of the nation's total population. In 2004, the state of New York had the highest number of blacks (3.5 million). Four other states had

black populations that surpassed 2 million: they are Florida, Texas, California and Georgia. As of July 1, 2004, the proportion of the District of Columbia's population identified as black was 59 % (319,196) - the highest rate for this race group of any state or state-equivalent in the nation. The District of Columbia was followed by Mississippi (37%), Louisiana (33%), Georgia, Maryland and South Carolina (30% each).

### District of Columbia Census 2000 Black Population Highlights

- In Census 2000, 343.3 thousand people, or 60 percent of the District's population reported that they were Black.
- In comparison with the total population, a higher proportion of the Black population was in the younger age groupings.
- On average, the median age of females is about 2 years older than males both in the total population and in the Black population.
- About 4 in 10 Blacks had never been married.
- The majority of Black households were family households.
- Blacks were more likely than the total population to be natives.
- Over 50 percent of foreign born living in the District arrived in the United States during the 1990s.
- Educational attainment levels for Black men and women are about the same in the District.
- Black men had a higher labor force participation rate than Black women.
- Of the three largest occupation categories in the District, the percentage of women was higher than the per-

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by  
Joy Phillips  
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centage of men both in the total population and in the Black population.

- Black men who worked year-round, full-time earned less than men in the total population.
- The median income for Black married-couple families was the highest of all Black family types.
- A higher proportion of Black women were in poverty as compared to all women.
- Less than half of occupied housing units were owner occupied both in the Black population and the total population.

**Census 2000 Demographic Details**

**1. In Census 2000, 343.3 thousand people, or 60 percent of the District’s population reported that they were black (Table 1).**

**2. In comparison with the total population, a higher proportion of the Black population was in the younger age groupings (Table 2).**

- For each of the age groups between 0 and 19 years, the proportion of males in the Black population was higher than the proportion of males in the total population.
- For each age group between 0 and 14 years, the proportion of females in the Black population was higher than the proportions of females in the total population.
- In the age categories 20 to 39, the proportions of Black men and Black women were lower than that of men and women in the total population.
- At older age groups (65 and over), the proportion (and number) of women were higher than men in both the Black and total populations.

**3. On average, the median age of females is about 2 years older than males both in the total population and in the Black population (Figure 1).**

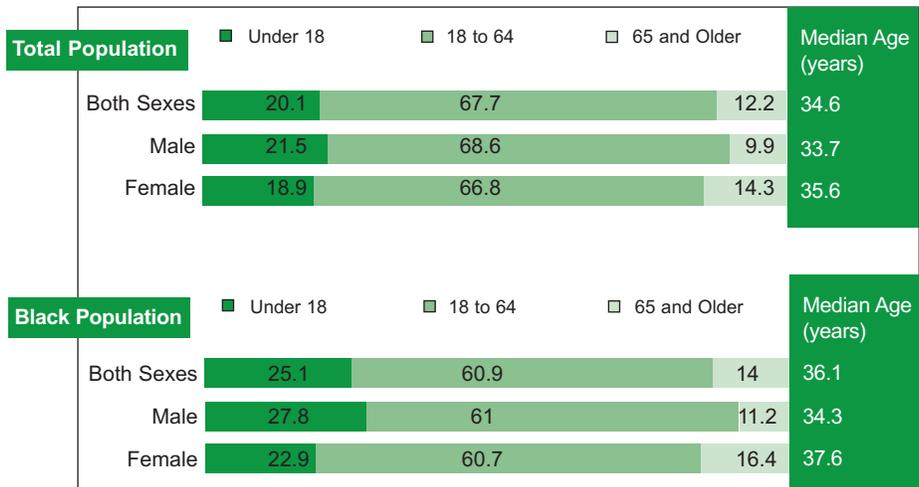
**Table 1: Black Population by Sex  
District of Columbia, 2000**

| Category   | Total Population Number | Black Population Number | Percent of Total Population |
|------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Both Sexes | 572,059                 | 343,312                 | 60.0%                       |
| Male       | 269,366                 | 155,547                 | 57.7%                       |
| Female     | 302,693                 | 187,765                 | 62.0%                       |

**Table 2: Percent Population Distribution by Age Group and Gender  
District of Columbia Residents, 2000**

| Age Group | % Black Male | % Total Male | % Black Female | % Total Female |
|-----------|--------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| 0-4       | 7.26         | 6.12         | 5.95           | 5.30           |
| 5-9       | 8.86         | 6.59         | 7.30           | 5.82           |
| 0-14      | 7.50         | 5.60         | 6.20           | 4.93           |
| 15-19     | 7.17         | 6.69         | 6.34           | 6.56           |
| 20-24     | 6.70         | 8.77         | 6.91           | 9.32           |
| 25-29     | 6.58         | 9.37         | 6.73           | 9.12           |
| 30-34     | 6.92         | 9.10         | 6.66           | 8.06           |
| 35-39     | 7.96         | 8.68         | 7.42           | 7.45           |
| 40-44     | 7.93         | 7.65         | 7.47           | 6.97           |
| 45-49     | 7.26         | 6.96         | 7.21           | 6.82           |
| 50-54     | 6.12         | 6.17         | 6.20           | 6.38           |
| 55-59     | 4.57         | 4.71         | 4.90           | 5.00           |
| 60-64     | 4.01         | 3.73         | 4.35           | 3.94           |
| 65-69     | 3.48         | 3.03         | 4.08           | 3.42           |
| 70-74     | 3.02         | 2.58         | 4.13           | 3.45           |
| 75-79     | 2.38         | 2.08         | 3.56           | 3.10           |
| 80-84     | 1.40         | 1.27         | 2.40           | 2.18           |
| 85 & Over | 0.89         | 0.90         | 2.18           | 2.16           |

**Figure 1: Selected Age Groups and Median Age by Sex: 2000**



- Black females had a higher median age (37.6 years) than Black males (34.3 years).
- Black women outnumbered Black men, especially in the older age groups.
- Sixteen percent of the Black female population and 11 percent of the Black male population was aged 65 years and over.

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- The proportion of Black population under 18 years was higher than the total population.

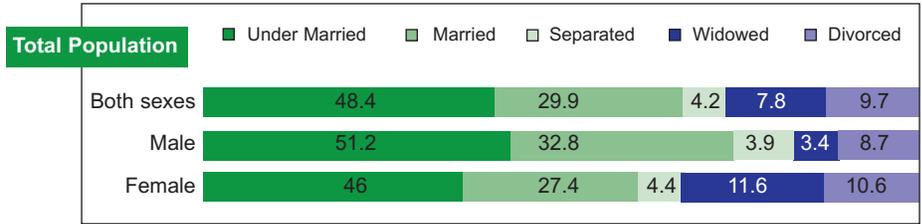
**4. About 4 in 10 Blacks had never been married (Figure 2).**

- At the time of the 2000 census, 48.4 percent of the District’s population 15 years and older had never been married; the corresponding percentage for Blacks was 46.9 percent.
- Twenty-five percent of Blacks were married, compared with 30 percent of the total population.
- Blacks were more likely than the total population to be separated, widowed, or divorced. Six percent of Blacks were separated; 10 percent were widowed; and 12 percent were divorced.

**5. The majority of Black households were family households (Figure 3).**

- While about 55 percent of Black households were family households, the type of family household differed from the total population.
- Twenty percent of Black households were maintained by married-couple families, compared with 23.4 percent of all households.
- The proportion of households that were family households maintained by Black women with no husband present was over 7 times the corresponding proportion for all households (30.2 percent compared with 4.2 percent).
- There were nearly 4 times the proportion of male householders with no wife present in total households than in Black households (19.6 percent compared to 5.3 percent).
- More than 50 percent of total households were non-family households as compared to 45 percent of Black households.
- The average size of a household maintained by a Black householder was 2.35 people.

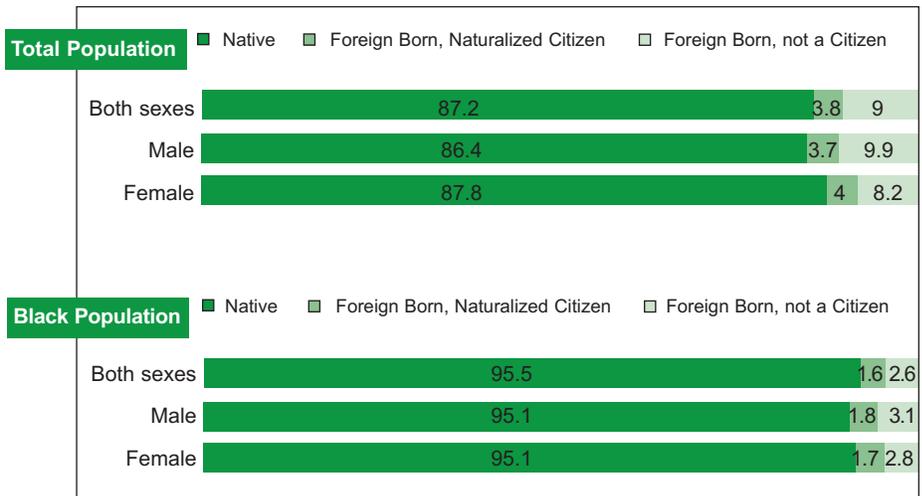
**Figure 2: Marital Status by Sex: 2000**



**Figure 3: Household Type and Average Households Size: 2000**



**Figure 4: Nativity and Citizenship Status by Sex: 2000**



**6. Blacks were more likely than the total population to be natives (US born)(Figure 4).**

- A higher percentage of the Black population (95.5 percent) than the total

population (87.2 percent) was native. Nearly 3 percent of Blacks and 9 percent of the total population were foreign born and not citizens.

- Nearly 2 percent of Black males and

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females were foreign born naturalized citizens.

**7. Over 50 percent of foreign born living in the District arrived in the United States during the 1990s (Figure 5).**

- Forty-seven percent of foreign born Blacks in the District entered the United States between 1990 and 2000. Twenty-five percent entered in the 1980s and 28 percent entered before 1980.
- Fifty-one percent of the total foreign born population in the District entered the United States in the 1990s. Similar to the Black population, 25 percent of the total foreign born population entered in the 1980s.

**8. Educational attainment levels for Black men and women are about the same in the District (Figure 6).**

- About 70 percent of Black men and women graduated high school. Seventeen percent went on to earn a bachelor's degree and 2.5 percent earned a doctorate or professional degree.
- In the total population for the District, 78 percent graduated high school, 39 percent earned a bachelor's degree, and 21 percent obtained a graduate or professional degree.
- Men attained higher educational levels than women in the total population, especially at the bachelor's and graduate degree levels.

**9. Black men had a higher labor force participation rate than Black women (Figure 7).**

- In 2000, 57.9 percent of Black men and 53.4 percent of Black women 16 years and older were in the labor force.
- Labor force participation rates for men and women in the total District population 16 years and older were higher

Figure 5: Foreign Born by Year of Entry and Sex: 2000

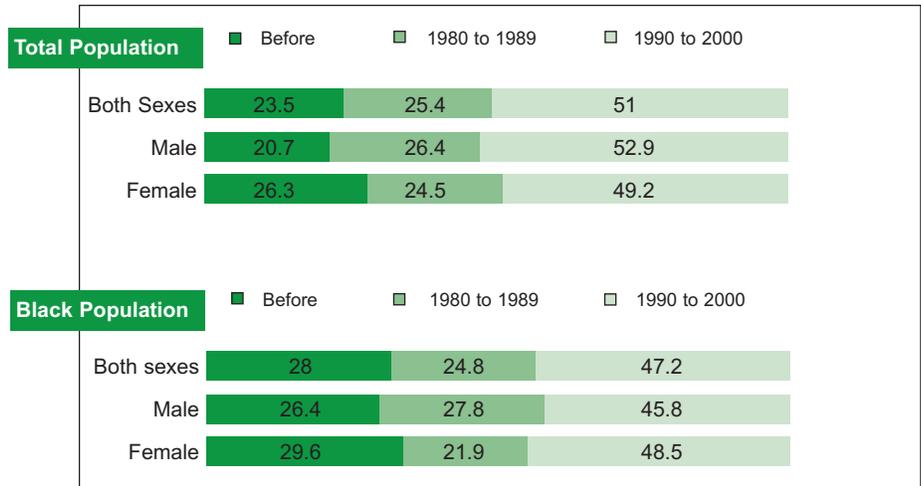


Figure 6: Education Attainment by Sex: 2000

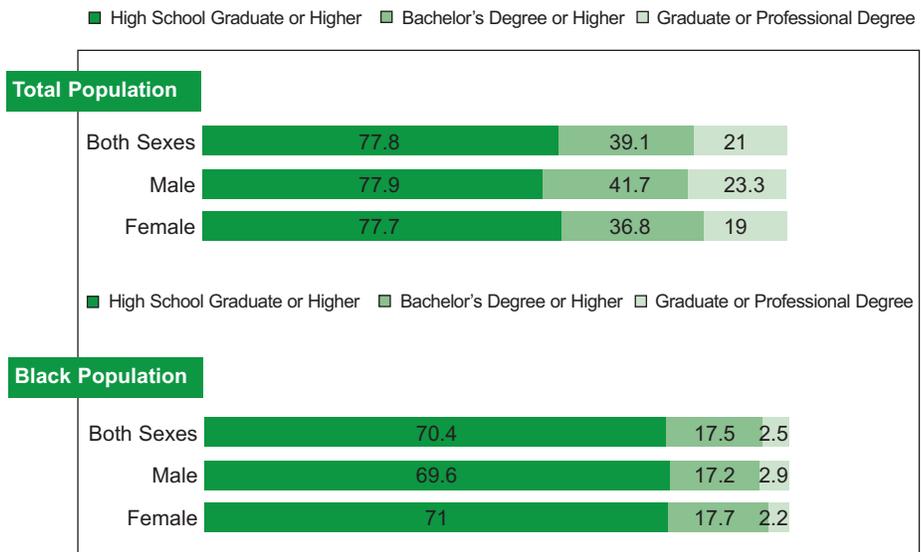
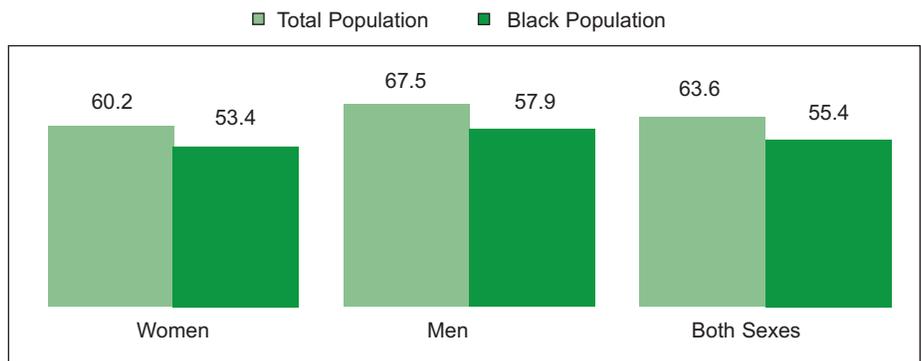


Figure 7: Labor Force Participation Rate by Sex: 2000



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than for Blacks (67.5 percent for men, 60.2 percent for women).

**10. Of the three largest occupation categories in the District, the percentage of women was higher than the percentage of men both in the total population and in the Black population (Figure 8).**

- Blacks were represented in all occupations but were more likely than the total civilian employed population to hold jobs in sales and office, and service categories. Thirty-one percent of all Blacks and 24 percent of all workers were in sales and office jobs. Twenty percent of Blacks and 16 percent of all workers were in service jobs. These proportions varied by sex.
- Thirty-four percent of all Blacks and 51 percent of all workers were in management and professional occupations.
- In 2000, a higher proportion of Black women (38.6 percent) than Black men (27.3 percent) were in management and professional occupations.

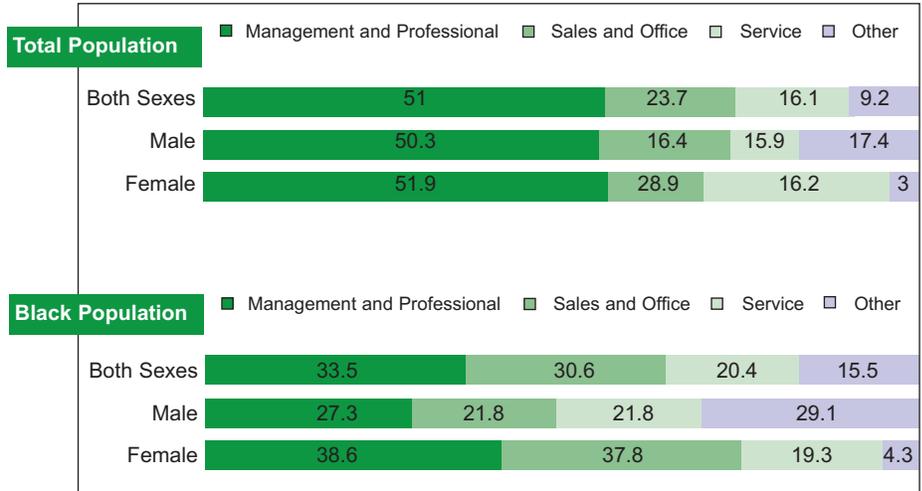
**11. Black men who worked year-round, full-time earned less than men in the total population (Figure 9).**

- The median earnings of Blacks 16 years and older who worked year round, full-time were \$31,296, about \$83 for every \$100 earned by all workers.
- The median earnings of Black men were \$31,674, compared with \$37,839 for all men. Black women’s median earnings were \$30,941, compared with \$36,361 for all women.
- The earnings of Black male and female workers were more comparable than those of all male and female workers.

**12. The median income for Black married-couple families was the highest of all Black family types (Figure 10).**

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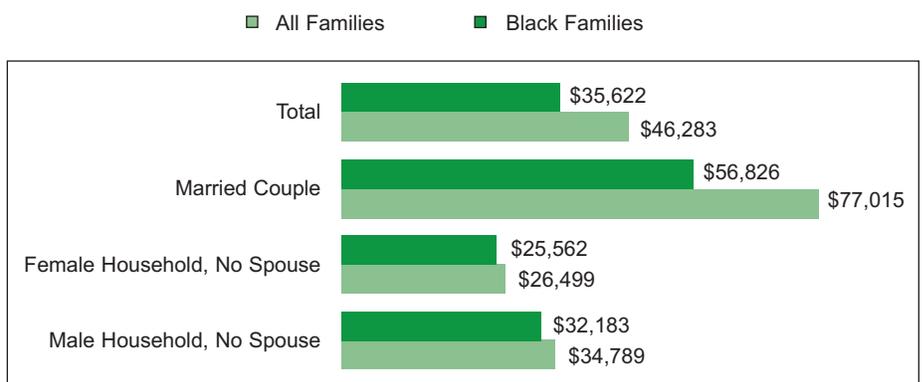
**Figure 8: Occupation by Sex: 2000**



**Figure 9: Median Earning by Sex: 2000**



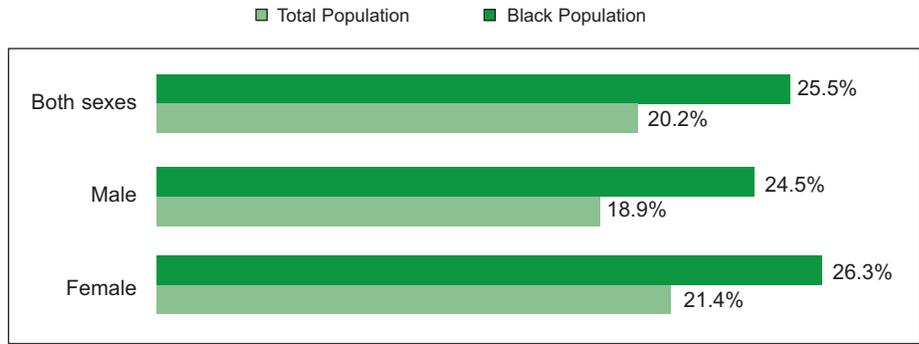
**Figure 10: Median Family Income by Family Type: 2000**



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- The median income of Black families (\$35,622) was lower than that of all families (\$46,283).
- Black married-couple families had an annual median income of \$56,826, more than double the median income of Black families maintained by women with no husband present.
- Married-couple families in the total population had a median income of \$77,015, over \$20,000 more than the median income for Black married-couples.

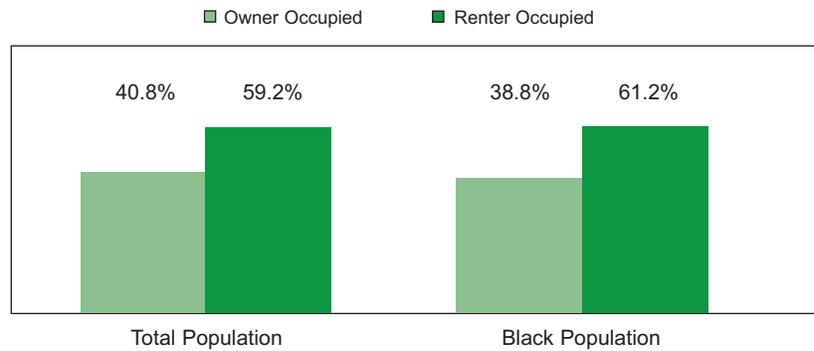
**Figure 11: Poverty Rates: 1999**



**13. A higher proportion of Black women were in poverty as compared to all women (Figure 11).**

- The proportion of Blacks in poverty was 5 percent higher than the total population.
- A quarter of the Black male population and 19 percent of all males lived in poverty.
- A higher proportion of the Black female population than the total female population was in poverty: 26 percent compared with 21 percent.

**Figure 12: Housing Tenure: 2000**



**14. Less than half of occupied housing units were owner occupied both in the Black population and the total population (Figure 12).**

- In 2000, 61 percent of housing units occupied by Black householders were rental units, compared with 59 percent rental units in the total population.
- The Black population follows a similar trend as the total population in the proportion of housing units that are owner occupied as compared to rental units.

The demographic characteristics of the Black population in the District of Columbia presented above provide information that is useful for understanding the general environment in which this population lives. Even though it may be difficult to calculate a direct effect of this environment on the socio-economic status of this population, it helps analysts frame and or interpret

the data presented in a broader context of living conditions. Thus, despite the gains that the Black population has made in the nation as a whole, and in the District of Columbia, the statistics show that progress is still uneven across various measures and differences persist between Blacks and other racial groups.

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